

Congressman Steve King today announced that a federal appropriation for Highway 20 in western Iowa has been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

King secured \$570,000 for continued construction of a four-lane U.S. 20 in northwest Iowa from the county line of Sac and Calhoun counties to Moville. This funding brings total federal funding secured for Highway 20 construction in western Iowa to more than \$26,000,000 during Congressman King's time in Congress. The four-lane project will increase traveler safety and economic development and stem population loss in one of Iowa's most productive regions.

"For decades, many of us in northwest Iowa have been working together to four-lane Highway 20," said King. "We turned hope into a promise. A promise has now become a plan and soon it will be a reality. This funding continues the process of turning that hope into a reality."

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

When Congressman King initially requested the funding in early 2008, he did so with the understanding that his requests, and those of other members, would be addressed by the House through the normal appropriations process. Instead, all member requests were lumped into a single, 1,222 page, \$410 billion spending bill that was written behind closed doors, with no legislative review or formal member input. The bill was made available for public scrutiny less than 48 hours before Members voted on it.

As a result, Congressman King opposed H.R. 1105 during House consideration of the bill on February 25. The \$410 billion "omnibus" spending bill significantly expands the federal deficit and funds the federal government for a mere seven months. That's over \$58.5 billion in taxpayer dollars per month.